

Sheriff Gary Del Re



Undersheriff Gary Stryker

# PRESS RELEASE

Lake County Sheriff's Office • 25 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue • Waukegan, Illinois 60085

## For Immediate Release

Date: April 23, 2003  
Contact: Sgt. Gary Govekar  
Phone: (847) 377-4070  
Fax: (847) 782-6010  
E-mail: [ggovekar@co.lake.il.us](mailto:ggovekar@co.lake.il.us)

### SHERIFF ANNOUNCES ARREST OF TWO MEN IN BEATING

**WAUKEGAN, IL.** – On April 22, 2003 at 7:10 AM, a subject was found lying along the pavement in the 26000 block of Geraldine Lane in Port Barrington, IL. The subject was unconscious and had sustained wounds caused by being struck repeatedly in the face, and then being either choked or strangled.

The victim had no identification on him, but was subsequently identified as Manuel B. Baltier, 25 years of age from Island Lake, IL.

Detectives from the Lake County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene and learned that Mr. Baltier was in possession of a set of metal and plastic throwing darts, those commonly used in dart board games and tournaments.

These Detectives began checking the surrounding area businesses that may have hosted dart games or tournaments and learned the victim had been patronizing the Sideouts Taven in 3-D Bowl the evening before in Island Lake, IL. Detectives further learned that Mr. Baltier had a large sum of money with him, and at the end of the evening left with two men who had befriended him.

Detectives were able to identify one of the two men Mr. Baltier left with as Robert S. "Bobby" Luga, 22 years of age of 27622 N. Hickory in Island Lake, IL. Luga was located at his residence at 3:30 PM that afternoon. In questioning by Detectives, Luga admitted his involvement in the beating and implicated his accomplice. Luga stated the motive behind the beating was robbery.

The accomplice was identified as Eric C. Kelleher, 22 years of age of 250 E. Vallette in Elmhurst, IL. Kelleher was apprehended at 5:35 PM yesterday afternoon at his residence by members of the Elmhurst Police Department. Kelleher was turned over to Lake County Sheriff's Office Detectives. During questioning, Kelleher also admitted his involvement, and also admitted the original motive was robbery.

Both Luga and Kelleher have been charged with Attempted First Degree Murder and Robbery. Both are currently housed in the Lake County Sheriff's Office Correctional facility.

Mr. Baltier was transported from the scene to Good Shephard Hospital by Wauconda Rescue. Mr. Baltier has not regained consciousness and remains in critical condition.